

## The Divine Mystery (Ephesians 5:31-32)

### Sermon Devotional

Series: God's Eternal Purpose and You

Dr. David H. Rhoades - April 26, 2020

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1. Have you ever felt like you're not doing enough for God? Do you believe that you need to try harder and do more?
2. Think about this statement: "Christian service is not religious duty, for religious duty is rooted in the human will to please God. God, however, is already pleased with people who have responded to His love with faith."

#### Digging Deeper

3. Read Ephesians 3:4-5 or access Pastor David's message at [broadviewchurch.com](http://broadviewchurch.com).
4. The mystery that has now been revealed is that the death and resurrection of Jesus has resulted in the salvation of the Gentiles, creating "one new man" (Eph. 2:15) by bringing Jews and Gentiles together in Christ.
5. Read Genesis 1:27 and Rev. 22:17. The Bible opens up with a marriage, and it ends with a marriage. God's story about us is a love story. What story or verse in the Bible is your favorite that describes God's love for us?
6. In Genesis 2:18, the Lord God says, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." You have a God-given desire to be with others. Who are the people in your life that are closest to you?
7. Read Ephesians 5:31-32. The closest relationship we can have is marriage. Yet when Paul writes this, he says he is speaking of the union between Christ and the church. Jesus became human to obtain us—His bride—whom He loves. How should we respond to Him?

#### Bringing It Home

8. Since God is pleased with you being part of His family, striving to achieve His favor or beating yourself up emotionally over your failures is unnecessary. Instead, take a few moments to praise God for who He is and thank Him for loving you.
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9. The fruit of the Spirit is found in Galatians 5:22-23. Which is God producing in you? If possible, memorize these two verses.

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